A LETTER
From *EDINBURGH*, *NOVEMBER* 30. 1643.

Giving full ſatisfaction to all men why the *SCOTISH* Army is not yet Advanced into *ENGLAND*.

My true and conſtant Friend,

GIve me leave to uſe this compellation of you who lives in the midſt of ſo many changes and changlings. Suffer me alſo to entreat you to afford me a little of your patience (if it be not all ſpent) till you have peruſed and pondered theſe few lines, expreſſing the condition of our affaires here, and then pronounce your ſentence.

Maſter *Hatcher* and his Company with the Treatie, and the Money, came to *Leith* road *November* 21. ſo long a time it pleaſed God to keep him on Sea, and thereby to exerciſe our patience.

The publicke Orders to the Shyres concerning the generall Randevous (which is appointed to be upon the 29. of *December* at *Hairlaw*, a place foure miles from *Berwicke*) were exped upon the fourth day after the arrivall of the Ship, which was *Novemb.* 25.

The neereſt Regements are appointed to march preſently towards the borders, there to quarter and exerciſe themſelves, and to meet with the Cavaleeres, if any of them ſhall appeare till the day of Randevous.

Conſider with your ſelfe, what time you will allow for ſending the Orders to the Shires, to call the Committees of the ſeverall Shires, to bring together the Souldiers to their Colours, and to march as farre as *Barwicke*, from which ſome of the Regiments are no leſſe then a hundred miles diſtant; after you have impartially conſidered theſe and other ſuch neceſſary duties and diſtractions, you will not condemne us of delayes or ſlackneſſe.

Ireland hath alſo bred us at this time, much trouble and hinderance, for upon the very day of Maſter *Hatcher* his arivall, Commiſſioners came from *Ireland*, expreſſing the unſupporable

ſupportable ſufferings of our *Iriſh* Army: One of them ſwore to my ſelfe, that being preſent at a Parade, he did ſee a whole Regiment, whereof ſcarcely one hundred had either ſtockings or ſhooes, but all bare-legged and bare-footed in this ſeaſon of the yeere; and yet poore ſoules, they are ready to take the Covenant, and to ſpend their lives againſt the Ceſſation, if they had neceſſaries for their lives furniſhed unto them.

Our Councels were toſſed betwixt two extremities, upon the one hand to bring them away, was to give up that Kingdome into the hands of Papiſts and Rebels; to ſuffer the poore Proteſtants there either to be driven forth, and to come upon us for reliefe, or their throats to be cut by their barbarity, which hath deſtroyed ſo many already; and to make the Rebels ſtrong and united for invading theſe two Kingdomes. Upon the other hand, to keepe them there, and to feed them with promiſes, and really to ſtarve them, as we have done for a long time were to fall in the like barbarity.

In this perplexity, we have beene forced to diſpatch from *Air* 4000 bolls of meall;

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which we had provided for the Western Regiments, and are providing other neceſſaries to be ſent unto thē with diligence. This hath bin an unexpected & untimeous, but a neceſſary diverſion of our councels from the great buſineſſe. And hath taken up a great part of our time, which the *Engliſh* Comiſſioners here doe know; and the wiſe there cannot but acknowledge.

The act of publike faith is alſo concluded, and ſent up that there be nothing wanting on our part: No ſooner did the Committee of the convention of Eſtates reſolve upon the day of generall randevous, but the Commiſſioners of the generall aſſembly in their meeting at *Edenbrugh*, have appointed a publike faſt and humiliation for a bleſſing from Heaven upon our expedition, which is to be ſolemly kept in the Army, & in all the Kirks of the Kingdome *Jan.* 7. being the Lords day, and the wedneſday following according to the warning ſent to all the Presbitaries and the particular cauſes expreſſed therein, which I have herewith ſent unto you.

Thus have we reſolved with our prayers and endeavours to joyne in the cauſe of God and to wait for his bleſſing for ſucceſſe.

FINIS.